

Environmental Justice Small Grant Work Plan

A. Project Title and Project Purpose Statement

“Climate Justice for Environmental Justice Communities” seeks to build on the highly successful work that Environmental Health Coalition (EHC) has engaged in at the grassroots, local level and the regional level to educate and empower low-income communities of color about climate change and its impacts. The project will expand on EHC’s climate-resiliency efforts by developing and providing specialized training to local residents on climate resiliency actions they can take individually and as a community to ameliorate the impacts of climate change. The training will follow our signature model, SALTA (Salud Ambiental Líderes Tomando Acción, or Environmental Health Leaders Taking Action). SALTA uses a popular education approach to teach community residents about racism, power, landmark cases of environmental and social justice, and how to improve health and the environment at home, in the community, and beyond. Part two of the training will prepare residents to participate meaningfully in climate planning efforts that impact them. EHC will also disseminate the climate change training via our website. The goal is to ensure that residents are equipped with information to protect themselves from some of the impacts of climate change and that the outcomes of local, regional, and national planning efforts address inequities and include benefits for EJ communities.

The project will focus on the San Diego, California, region EJ communities of City Heights (zip codes 92105 and 92102), the Logan area (92113; Barrio Logan, Sherman Heights, Logan Heights), and National City (91950). The dissemination effort will include regional and national outreach.

The project activities are authorized by the Clean Air Act, Section 103(b) (3) and the Toxic Substances Control Act, Section 10(a).

The project’s community climate resiliency focus is on educating residents about lung health impacts potentially exacerbated by increased pollution levels, as well as on heat-related and other stressors, and on community training for prevention in relation to the Toxic Substances Control Act.

B. Environmental, Public Health, and Community Climate Resiliency Information about the Affected Community

The target area for the proposed planning effort is the majority Latino neighborhoods of Barrio Logan, Sherman Heights, Logan Heights and City Heights (in the City of San Diego) and National City. City Heights also has a large population from east Africa, Vietnam, and Cambodia. Barrio Logan is San Diego’s original Mexican-American neighborhood and the spirit of its pivotal role in the 1960s Chicano rights movement continues today. National City, the second oldest and the poorest city in San Diego County, set a historic precedent in 2011 when EHC’s work led to inclusion of an Environmental Justice Element in the city’s General Plan, the first in the nation. City Heights is one of the most diverse neighborhoods in San Diego. Home to a largely immigrant population from Latin America, the Mideast and Africa, residents speak more than 30 languages.

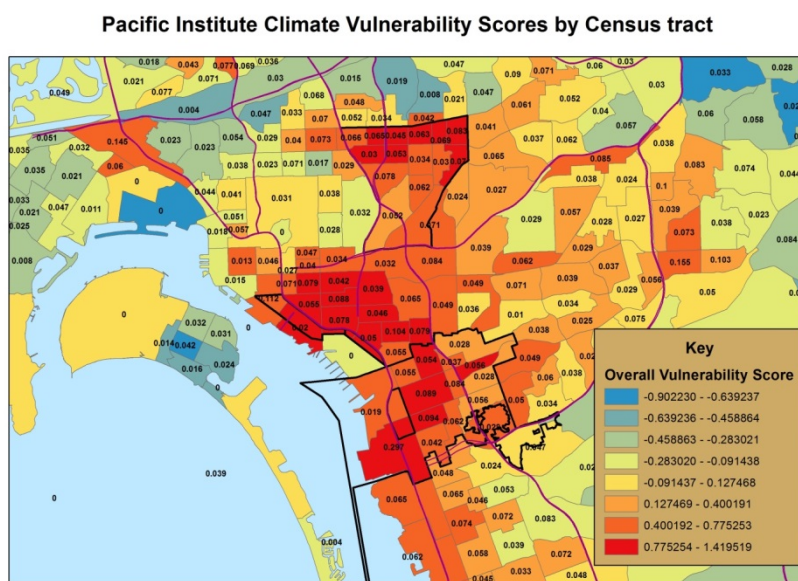
EHC has worked with residents and leaders in National City and City Heights for more than a decade and in the Logan area for more than two. We have longstanding relationships with residents and have built extensive networks and trust within the communities. Our Climate Justice Campaign brings together residents and supporters from all three communities to train and take actions that have local and regional impacts.

EHC's Community Organizers each focus intensively on one of the three target communities and join together to educate decision-makers about regional plans - such as the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and the Port Climate Action Plan (CAP) - that have impacts on communities throughout the area. The RTP impacts residents of all 18 cities in San Diego County. The Port of San Diego includes five waterfront cities – San Diego, National City, Chula Vista, Imperial Beach, and Coronado. The two industrial port terminals, one in Barrio Logan and the other adjacent to the Old Town section of National City, are governed by the San Diego Unified Port District. They generate significant GHGs including 263,000 pounds of diesel particulate matter emissions per year. Ships and trucks are the largest sources with cargo tonnage at the ports topping 2,840,000 metric tons in 2011, including 272,000 vehicles and 99,871 containers. Truck trips to the two terminals account for over 62,000 trips per year in recent years, each one exposing the community to additional toxic diesel exhaust. The terminals lack infrastructure to support truckers, who must wait for goods to be off-loaded from ships, resulting in trucks idling on neighborhood streets for hours at a time. Manufacturing and shipyard operations are other sources of GHG emissions in these port communities.

In EHC's target communities, 20 - 30% of families live in poverty compared to 11% in San Diego County. More than 90% of residents are people of color compared to 52% in the county. Residents face multiple environmental and social obstacles to well-being including polluting industries, substandard housing, poor regulatory enforcement, discriminatory land use, inadequate infrastructure and transportation options, air and lead pollution, limited economic opportunities, and lack of green space.

The multiple risk factors that residents face are documented by CalEnviroScreen, a tool developed by the state that identifies the California communities most burdened by pollution from multiple sources and most vulnerable to its effects. Population vulnerability indicators include socio-economic characteristics and underlying health status such as poverty, linguistic isolation, and high asthma rates. According to CalEnviroScreen, Barrio Logan is ranked first in San Diego County for overall pollution burden. National City is ranked first in the county for population vulnerability. Barrio Logan, National City, and City Heights are near the top in the county for diesel particulate pollution and are highly ranked for asthma emergency room visits. Statewide, the CalEnviroScreen vulnerability total score puts Barrio Logan in the top 5%, National City in the top 10%, and City Heights in the top 20%. The effects of climate change such will exacerbate health vulnerabilities such as asthma, as well as other vulnerabilities.

EHC's target communities also rank high in the Pacific Institute's 2012 "Social Vulnerability to Climate Change in California" study. It uses census tract level data and integrates 19 indicators into a score that underlines the disproportionate impact of climate change in low-income communities. Indicators include people over 65 living alone, households in poverty, people of color, linguistic isolation, unemployment, lack of tree canopy and of air conditioning. The highest vulnerability areas in the San Diego area, shown in red in the map below, are EHC's target neighborhoods.



EHC's successes are the result of our commitment to listening to and lifting up community voices in our target communities to achieve social and environmental justice. We have secured historic advances to protect public health and the environment, including the one of first community Right-to-Know laws in the nation (1982), the first law to ban lead-contaminated candies (2005), the first bi-national toxic waste cleanup (2008), the first general plan in the U.S. to include an environmental justice element (2011), and the first use of amortization to relocate polluters (2013). Since 1996, we have trained more than 2,000 community leaders through our SALTA training program.

EHC has worked directly on energy and climate issues for nearly a decade and on air pollution for more than three decades. In 2008 we launched our Climate Justice Campaign as a core program. EHC has led the way to recent climate justice victories in our targeted geography that include the following outcomes that educate low-income communities, reduce GHGs, and advance EJ priorities at the local, regional and state levels:

Education

- Local energy audits and education. EHC's community "promotoras" have conducted energy audits of 465 low-income households in San Diego since 2010. The home visits educate families about green job opportunities, energy reduction, and policy issues. Recent audits

resulted in an average of 26 % electricity savings and 37% gas savings for participants. A reduction of energy use at that level by all San Diego residents would equal the energy produced by three medium peaker plants over 18 months. Following EHC's audits, families receive information about weatherization, home energy upgrades, and low-income discount rates (2010 – present).

- Climate Justice Basics. In 2011 and 2012, EHC conducted our first SALTA trainings about climate change for 85 community residents. These trainings provided the basis for sessions on climate justice in our nine-session 2012 and 2014 core leadership SALTA curriculum (with 50 participants) and for subsequent mini- SALTAs focused on specific local, regional, and state opportunities to educate decision-makers about climate justice perspectives.
- Climate change and health. EHC received a grant from the Public Health Institute to partner with La Maestra Community Health Centers in order to advance understanding and education about the links between climate change and health impacts, particularly in low-income communities. EHC trained 24 health providers and 30 community “promotoras” from the health centers in 2014 and developed educational posters and brochures with them to integrate climate change and health into daily contacts between patients and staff.

Reducing GHGs

- Power plant decommissioned. EHC's 15-year campaign culminated in the permanent shutdown of the polluting South Bay Power Plant (2010) and its demolition (2013).
- Power permits denied. EHC and our allies stopped the construction of two dirty San Diego proposed power plants, Quail Brush and Pio Pico. We organized events and media outreach in San Diego to help convince the state to deny the proposals. San Diego Gas & Electric subsequently convinced the state to overturn the denial for Pio Pico, citing energy capacity shortages due to closure of the San Onofre nuclear power plant (2012-2014).
- Energy efficiency program requirements adopted. The California Public Utilities Commission adopted EHC's energy efficiency recommendations to require that utilities implement programs to ensure that disadvantaged communities have access to upgrades in their homes and to training and jobs in their neighborhoods (2012).
- Green industrial park for National City. EHC inaugurated a planning process with multiple stakeholders for a green industrial park to house polluting businesses relocated via a unique use of amortization (2013).
- Shorepowering at Tenth Avenue Maritime Terminal. Shorepowering installed at the Tenth Avenue Dole berth is expected to reduce by 94% diesel emissions that impact the adjacent Barrio Logan community and contribute to the regional carbon footprint (2014).
- Community transportation priorities approved. The EHC-led City Heights Community Driven Action Plan, completed in 2013, prioritizes public transit and active transportation. Implementation efforts secured accelerated funding for a Bike Corridor/Complete Streets project to improve pedestrian/bicyclists' safety and access to schools, jobs, shops, and transit (2014).

Victories

- Proposition 39. EHC's education and outreach on Prop 39, the California Initiative that brings funding to communities to support green jobs and clean energy by closing a corporate tax loophole, contributed to approval of the initiative. Voters in our local communities approved

Prop 39 by 76 percent, while it was approved by only 56 percent of voters county-wide. Before the election, we identified 3,199 voters in our communities who agreed to vote yes on Prop 39 (2012).

- Prop 23. EHC led the effort in San Diego to defeat California Proposition 23, a dirty energy and green job killer bill, which was rejected by a 55% to 44% vote in the county (2010).
- Port of San Diego Climate Action Plan (CAP) adopted. The Port's promising CAP sets goals for transportation, land use, energy efficiency, and alternative energy generation. The CAP calls for a 10% GHG reduction from 2008 levels by 2020 and 25% less than 2008 by 2035. Implementation requirements are scheduled to be adopted in subsequent years (2013).

For each of these important achievements, EHC and our allies were able to overcome barriers including those deriving from a history of neglect of low-income communities of color. As documented by CalEnviroScreen and the Pacific Institute (discussed above), our target communities are among the most impacted in the state by multiple risk factors.

The project will benefit affected communities by empowering residents with knowledge about adaptive measures they can take and with capacity to educate decision-makers about their priorities and needs in the face of climate change.

C. Organization's Historical Connection to the Affected Community

EHC has longstanding relationships with residents in our target communities. A key element of our success is our trainings, which support grassroots leaders in building knowledge, skills, and solidarity and provide the groundwork for ensuring a successful Community Action Team (CAT). The CATs are the centerpiece of our work. CAT leaders are graduates of EHC's core SALTA leadership training. Many have participated in multiple SALTA trainings that further develop leadership skills and capacity. EHC's CAT leaders bring knowledge and experience of their communities to our activities around key issues, such as climate justice. EHC Organizers recruit CAT members and maintain regular contact with each leader in addition to joining together for monthly meetings. Our approach is based on building strong personal relationships and making it easy for individuals to participate in local decision-making. EHC materials are culturally and language appropriate to the communities we serve and CAT meetings are scheduled at times convenient to community residents with childcare, transportation, food and translation services provided. EHC's training model and our meeting protocols ensure that low literacy and little formal education are not barriers to participation. CAT leaders are spokespersons for their communities, serve on EHC's Board of Directors and play key roles in setting the direction of the organization.

D. Project Description

The project **goal is to strengthen climate resiliency in EJ communities** by empowering individuals and households to take actions to protect themselves from the impacts of climate change and to prepare them to educate decision-makers about opportunities to address inequities and reduce activities causing climate change.

The project **objectives** and **activities** are:

Objective 1: Climate Change Training. Provide popular education SALTA training to local residents on the health and environmental impacts of climate change including how to take individual and community actions to reduce emissions and impacts.

Part 1. EHC will develop a training that is based on our SALTA model and draws on our previous climate justice trainings. EHC will provide the training to at least 40 community residents. The first part of the training will cover the basics about climate change, its causes and potential health impacts, and will include practical information on resiliency strategies that residents can adopt to reduce the health impacts of air pollution and heat events associated with climate change. The training will discuss potential health impacts such as heat stress, cardiovascular disease, aggravated asthma and bronchitis, reduced lung function, and slow lung growth in children. Other topics include allergies, vector-borne diseases, water-borne diseases, water and food supply, mental health, and environmental refugees. Recommendations in the training will include making home improvements (such as installing weather stripping to protect homes from outdoor air pollution) and behavior modification (such as avoiding toxic household cleaners and pesticides in weatherized homes and seeking cooling centers during extreme heat events).

Part 2. EHC's training will empower residents to educate decision-makers about EJ community priorities around specific local and regional climate change plans.

The policy decisions that San Diego leaders make in the next several years will shape the region for decades to come. EHC has worked with leaders from multiple sectors to ensure that the perspectives and priorities of low-income communities are included as the San Diego region addresses climate change. Achieving meaningful outcomes for low-income communities will depend on the timely implementation of policy goals. EHC's training will ensure that the affected communities speak with a united and strong voice when educating decision-makers about EJ concerns and priorities regarding these policies and their implementation. CAT members and other community residents with whom EHC has worked on climate justice issues have identified benefits that they wish to prioritize. These are: household energy cost savings, health improvements from cleaner air, living wage green jobs, better access to transit and walking/biking, and access to air-conditioning/cooling centers and green spaces. The following are the main opportunities for EHC, the community, and our allies to address climate resiliency in a systematic, long-term context.

- City of San Diego Climate Action Plan (CAP). EHC led the effort to create a strong, long-term, enforceable draft CAP that was completed in February 2014 and ready to be finalized through environmental review before adoption by the San Diego City Council. The new mayor took office in March and called for further review of the plan, stalling its progress. EHC's training will prepare community residents for meaningful participation in educating decision-makers about EJ priorities to ensure a strong plan is adopted in 2015 and to ensure its timely implementation.

- The Unified Port of San Diego CAP. In December 2013 a Port CAP was approved that addresses EJ concerns, reduces greenhouse gases (GHG), and promotes community priorities for sustainability. While the goals are impressive, the CAP document has limited authority and the goals will languish if not followed by enactment of implementing policies in the transportation and energy section of the CAP. EHC's training will prepare community residents to continue to call attention to the importance of the timely implementation of the CAP.
- 2016 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Update at the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG). In November 2014, a ruling issued in response to a lawsuit filed by the Cleveland National Forest Foundation, the Center for Biological Diversity, and the Sierra Club (joined by California Attorney General Kamala Harris on behalf of the People of the State of California) found that SANDAG failed to assess fully the climate and public health risks of a transportation plan that invests heavily in freeways and subsidizes sprawl at the expense of public transit. The ruling clearly establishes the failure of SANDAG to take EJ perspectives seriously and illustrates how important it is that community residents be informed and prepared for meaningful discussions with decision-makers. The training will prepare community residents to be involved in and influence the 2016 county RTP update.
- Land use planning. EHC's work on land use and community planning in Barrio Logan, National City and City Heights offers other opportunities for residents to participate in decision-making around climate change issues that affect them. One of those is the implementation of National City's Westside Specific Plan, which includes a unique program to relocate polluters away from residential areas. EHC is leading a collaborative effort to build a green industrial park in National City to house relocated polluting businesses, create green jobs, and keep jobs in the community. In City Heights, we are working with the community to influence current SANDAG transportation and infrastructure plans, including the Mid-City Bike Corridor/54th Street Complete Streets project and other climate resiliency-related elements of a community action plan that prioritizes safe walking, biking, driving and public transit needs.

EHC's core partners in these efforts are our CATs. Other key collaborators will contribute expertise, analysis, staff and/or volunteer time, communications support, community outreach, community perspectives, and meeting space. These collaborators include the 350.org, ACLU San Diego Chapter, Alianza de Liderazgo Comunitario, Alliance San Diego, Barrio Logan Community Planning Group, Center for Policy Initiatives, Chula Vista Wildlife Advisory Group, City Heights Community Development Corporation, Cleveland National Forest Foundation, Coastal Environmental Rights Foundation, Connell Whittaker Group, International Rescue Committee, Kimball Elementary School, King Chávez School, La Maestra Community Health Centers, League of Women Voters San Diego, MAAC Project, Nature Conservancy, Perkins Elementary School, San Diego Audubon Society, San Diego Coastkeeper, San Diego LGBT Community Center, San Diego Organizing Project, San Diego Sierra Club, San Diego State University, San Diego Housing Federation, Scripps Institute of Oceanography, Surfrider, University of California San Diego, Victory Gardens San Diego, and Wildcoast. Local members of the business community with whom we have partnered on climate resilience efforts include the National City Chamber of Commerce, San Diego Green Building Council, and Sullivan Solar Power.

Objective 2: Disseminate Climate Change Training. Prepare training for national distribution via EHC's website and implement dissemination plan.

EHC will develop an online version of the climate change curriculum for other communities to use to build their knowledge and skills to advance local goals around climate change. The Climate Change SALTA will prepare community residents to analyze local opportunities and to participate effectively in developing public policies by educating decision-makers.

The web-based curriculum will follow the template EHC developed for our online core Leadership SALTA and our Creating Healthy Neighborhoods SALTA about community land use planning. EHC worked with Design Action Collective to create the template. The template includes graphics and easy-to-follow icons and is designed to be accessible to audiences with or without technology. The web-based training will be bilingual (Spanish/English) and printable in PDF format. Complementing the curriculum will be materials such as case studies, posters, maps, history timelines, powerpoints, videos, worksheets, and activity handouts such as role-playing scripts. The web-based SALTA will include instructions on a step-by-step process for how to replicate the training in other communities.

EHC has the web infrastructure along with established local, state, and national outreach contacts to conduct dissemination. We worked with the Metropolitan Group to develop outreach and promotional materials for our SALTA Leadership and Creating Healthy Neighborhoods trainings. We will target the same audience, consisting of residents of low-income communities and social and environmental justice organizations and other non-profits in local, state, and national markets who are engaged in or developing community organizing around climate change. We will also reach out specifically to local groups, such as San Diego's 350.Org and others with whom we are engaged in climate change planning, as well as our statewide allies in the California Environmental Justice Alliance. We will promote the climate change training through social media, presentations, tabling events, and mailings to at least 500 contacts.

E. Organizational Capacity and Programmatic Capability

EHC has a 35-year record of grant management, including successfully managing many federal, state, and local government grants. EHC's administrative staff, including our Chief Financial Officer, Fiscal, and Project Manager, is responsible for managing, expending, and accounting for federal funds. EHC's grant data base is maintained by the Fiscal Manager and includes due dates for all reports. Monthly reports are generated to alert staff to upcoming deadlines in each quarter. This ensures that all documents are submitted in a timely manner, including MBE/WBE reports, Financial Status Reports, lobbying certificates, invoices, and narrative reports. Documentation of all expenses is maintained for the required period of time beyond the end of the grants. Monthly reports are submitted to the San Diego Housing Commission to comply with requirements of the HUD grants that support the Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes projects for which we are the education and outreach contractor. We completed an Organizational Capacity Assessment in 2009 as part of the award for our EPA CARE grant.

F. Qualifications of Project Manager

Leticia Ayala, Leadership Development & Healthy Kids Campaign Director, received a BA in Business Administration in 1994 and became a certified Lead Hazard Control Specialist in 2000 and HERS certified in 2010. She joined EHC in 1995 and has served in many capacities with increasing responsibility. Her dedication to serving low-income Latino communities is deep-rooted. As a high school student, she was the Youth Representative for the Los Angeles Mayor's Committee on Children, Youth and Families. When EHC decided in 1998 to pilot a lead poisoning prevention project, Ayala became the coordinator, and when the project was elevated to a major EHC Campaign in 2002, she became the Campaign Director. Ayala is a member of the San Diego Citizen Advisory Committee for Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention, the Southern California Healthy Homes Collaborative, Smoke-Free Housing Taskforce and the California healthy Housing Coalition. She is a 2010 graduate of the Rockwood Leadership Institute. She is a frequent presenter at environmental health conferences and trainings. Ayala has been a lead facilitator of numerous SALTA trainings. She oversaw the development and implementation of EHC's City Heights nine-week SALTA training and followup sessions that resulted in March 2013 in residents finalizing their Community Development Action Plan. Ayala has been EHC's leadership director since 2010.

Selected Presentations

- 2010: University of California, San Diego Women's Studies Program, "Celebration of the History of EHC's Heroines"
- 2012: The California Wellness Foundation, "Housing & Health Leaders Taking Action"
- 2013: California Healthy Housing Coalition, "Education and Outreach: Hard to Reach."
- 2013: 29th Annual Latino Medical Student Association Regional Conference, "Community Health & Empowerment: How to Empower & Mobilize Communities to Take Action Against Environmental Injustices."
- 2013: University of California, San Diego Bookstore, "Lead Wars: Environmental Health Coalition - Who We Are and What We Do"
- 2013: Southern California Health and Housing Council, "Leaders Taking Action"
- 2013: California Public Utilities Commission, "Home Energy Education Program."
- 2014: 12th Annual Promotores and Community Health Worker Conference, Los Angeles, "Creando Comunidades Sanos y el Cambio Climático," Vision y Compromiso.

Trainings

- 1999: Center for Third World Organizing: Grassroots Institute for Fundraising Training, Oakland, CA.
- 2002: Midwest Academy Organizing Training, Chicago, IL.
- 2009: Rockwood Leadership Institute, Art of Leadership, Sonoma, CA.
- 2012: Greenville Technical College 29th Annual Conference and Exposition of the Environmental Information Association, U.S. HUD Healthy Homes Rating System Training, San Diego, CA.

Honors

- 1994: Mario Moreno Cantinflas Award (for community service to the Latino/Chicano Community), Loyola Marymount University.
- 1998: Foundation for Children of the Californias Volunteer Award.
- 1999: South Bay National Wildlife Refuge Appreciation Award.
- 2003: San Diego City Beat Newspaper "Who's Getting Busy" list of movers and shakers.
- 2004: Rancho de La Nación (National City) Optimist Club Award.

2005: Certificate of Appreciation from State of California former Lieutenant Governor Cruz Bustamante.
 2005: City of National City Community Award.
 2005: Human Rights Volunteer Award.
 2005: Leadership Award from 10 News San Diego.
 2006: 1st Annual Durga Women's Herstory Award.
 2009: Leader Award from US HUD Lead/Healthy Home Office.
 2010: National Achievements in Environmental Justice Award from US EPA.
 2010: You Made the Difference! Award from American Lung Association, National City.

G. Past Performance in Reporting on Outputs and Outcomes

Environmental Health Coalition has been the recipient of numerous federal grants and sub-awards, including grants from the Environmental Protection Agency, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, Border 2012, North American Fund for Environmental Cooperation, and Department of Housing and Development. All closed grants have been satisfactorily completed. Following is a sample of five federal grants or cooperative agreements of similar size, scope and relevance to the proposed project in last 3 years:

1. US EPA CARE, 2009-2012. RE-00T17001-0 for \$300,000 over two years for "Clean Ports, Healthy Communities in San Diego." Program Officer Periann Wood.
2. US EPA Area-Wide Brownfields Planning Grant, 2013-2015. 00T10501 for \$200,000 over two years for "National City Green Industrial Park Project." Program officer Noemi Emeric-Ford.
3. US EPA Environmental Justice Small Grant, 2013-2015. 00T10501 for \$30,000 over one year for "Changing Land Use Policies, Changing Lives." Program Officer Richard Grow.
4. HUD – subaward – San Diego Housing Commission, 2012-2015. \$266,738 over two years for "Healthy Homes." San Diego Housing Commission Program Officer Frank Ballow.
5. US EPA Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Program, 2014-2016. 99T22801 for \$120,000 over two years for "Reducing Air Pollution in San Diego's Barrio Logan." Program Officer Sara Russell.

H. Quality Assurance Project Plan Information

The project will not involve the use of existing environmental data or the collection of new data as defined in Appendix F